In the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1.   (currently amended) A method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

purging memory, subsequent to said identifying, of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

dividing, subsequent to said purging, each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first and second resolution levels.

3.   (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level; and

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

4.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection technique.

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5.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified coordinates.

6.   (original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

combining the at least two digital images.

7.   (original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second resolution level.

8.   (original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level;

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level overlap; and

combining the digital images.

9.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium having instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

purging memory, subsequent to said identifying, of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

dividing, subsequent to said purging, each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

10.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first and second resolution levels.

11.   (previously amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level; and

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

12.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection technique.

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13. . (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified coordinates.

14. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises combining the at least two digital images.

15. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second resolution level.

16. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level;

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level overlap; and

combining the digital images.

17.   (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

    (a)   one or more processors; and

    (b)   a computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one

or more processors, perform:

        (i)   identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution

level,

        (ii)   purging memory, subsequent to said identifying, of the at least two digital

images at the first resolution level;

        (iii)   dividing, subsequent to said purging, each of the at least two digital

images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution

level, and

        (iv)   identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution

level overlap.

18.   (original) The computer system of claim 17, comprising a computer readable medium to

store each of the at least two digital images at the first and second resolution levels.

19.   (previously amended) The computer system of claim 17, comprising memory, the

computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more

processors, perform:

    storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in the memory to

identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level, and

    storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify

where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

20.   (original) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the identifying where the at least

two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where overlapping ones

of the areas at the second resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection

technique.

21.   (original) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the identifying where the at least

two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where

the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level

overlap comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified coordinates.

22.   (original) The computer system of claim 17, the computer readable medium to store

instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform combining the at least

two digital images.

23.   (original) The computer system of claim 17, the computer readable medium to store

instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform identifying where the at

least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second

resolution level.

24.   (original) The computer system of claim 17, the computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level,

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level,

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level overlap, and

combining the digital images.

25.   (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

means for identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

means for purging memory, subsequent to said identifying, of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

means for dividing, subsequent to said purging, each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

means for identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

26.   (previously amended) The computer system of claim 25, comprising:

means for storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level; and

means for storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to

identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

27.   (original) The computer system of claim 25, comprising:

means for combining the at least two digital images.

28.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dividing comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.

29.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the dividing comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.

30.   (original) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the dividing comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.

31.   (original) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the dividing means comprises means for dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.

32.   (currently amended) A method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

purging memory, subsequent to said identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level, of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

dividing, subsequent to said purging, each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level based on where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

purging memory of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a third resolution level higher than the second resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level based on where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level overlap; and

combining the at least two digital images.

33.   (original) The method of claim 32, wherein the dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size; and

wherein the dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the third resolution level comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the third resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than the threshold size.

34.   (original) The method of claim 32, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first, second, and third resolution levels.

35.   (original) The method of claim 32, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap;

purging the memory of the overlapping areas at the second resolution level; and

storing the overlapping areas at the third resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the third resolution level overlap.

36.   (original) The method of claim 32, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level, the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap, and the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection technique.

37.   (original) The method of claim 32, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap;

wherein the identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level

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comprises identifying the overlapping areas at the second resolution level based on the identified coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap;

wherein the identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap comprises identifying coordinates where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level comprises identifying the overlapping areas at the third resolution level based on the identified coordinates where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

38.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium having instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

purging memory, subsequent to said identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level, of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

dividing, subsequent to said purging memory, each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level based on where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

purging memory of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a third resolution level higher than the second resolution level;

identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level based on where the

overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap;

identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level overlap; and

combining the at least two digital images.

39.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size; and

wherein the dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the third resolution level comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the third resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than the threshold size.

40.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first, second, and third resolution levels.

41.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level;

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap;

purging the memory of the overlapping areas at the second resolution level; and

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storing the overlapping areas at the third resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the third resolution level overlap.

42.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level, the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap, and the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection technique.

43.   (original) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap;

wherein the identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level comprises identifying the overlapping areas at the second resolution level based on the identified coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap;

wherein the identifying where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap comprises identifying coordinates where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying overlapping ones of the areas at the third resolution level comprises identifying the overlapping areas at the third resolution level based on the identified coordinates where the overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.